



Pharmacy: a critical part of inspection

Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Potts, medical inspector, Air Force Inspection Agency, looks on as Airman Alexandra Bennett fills a prescription in the pharmacy during the recent Health Services Inspection. According to Col. Barry Simon, AFIA's team chief for the inspection, "Pharmacy operations are critical. We absolutely must get them right each and every time."

Photo by Lisa Gonzales

Medical Group passes inspection, survey

The Air Force Health Services Inspection (HSI) in conjunction with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) Survey was conducted June 9-11 at the 377th Medical Group.

Team Chief Col., Dr., Barry Simon led the nine person HSI team. JCAHO surveyor team members were Dr. Gerald Roling and Paul Hargis, an administrator.

Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, said, "We're proud to report that our 377th Medical Group did very well on last week's Health Services Inspection and concurrent review by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations."

"The leadership team in place in our medical

group is not only getting the job done, but improving their operation every single day" Colonel Andrews continued, "It is a privilege to work with them."

The HSI/JCAHO Inspection Team looked at numerous operational aspects of the 377 MDG. Key areas included Assessment to Care/Services, Patient Safety, Deployment Processing, Executive Oversight and Medical Readiness.

The overall ratings for the HSI were "satisfactory," with three areas rated "outstanding" and five rated "excellent."

The nine inspectors on the HSI team noted in their report that "377 MDG leadership at all levels was outstanding."

The JCAHO will provide full accreditation as soon as we provide "evidence of standards compliance" in four areas, including our process for monitoring patients referred to other care (the inspector noted this is a service-wide challenge).

Col. Karen M. Mathews, 377 MDG commander, stated, "Although we only had 32 days notice, our medical group was prepared to show inspectors we have excellent programs and outstanding personnel. This evaluation proves the 377 MDG keeps TEAM KIRTLAND medically ready and 'Takes Care of the Troops' and their families with quality patient care services."

Dental officer shortage causes procedure changes

BY COL. STEVEN D. GULBRANSON

377th Dental Squadron commander

Due to deployment and a heavy turn-over of dental officers during the summer PCS season, patients of the 377th Dental Squadron may notice changes with some of our normal procedures.

Through September we will have fewer dentists

assigned to our clinic. Although we will be receiving some limited manning assistance from other Air Force dentists, some patients may experience an appointment delay for routine dental care.

Changes in the size of our staff will have no effect on our focus and commitment to our dental readiness mission.

You should not notice any changes in scheduling annual exams and dental cleaning appointments.

Patients who have dental problems that make them non-worldwide qualified will be a priority to receive care and urgent dental needs will be promptly treated.

All patients will be thoroughly informed of their dental needs and the management plan for their care.

INSIDE

PAGE 2

Changes of command;
Welcoming interns;
Mentoring

PAGE 3

Full gear or fool's gear

PAGE 4

Career Focus:

PAGE 5

Forum

PAGE 6

Command chief
changeover;
Kirtland AFB fire
danger 'extreme'

PAGE 7

Command Chief's
Choice; PCS move Web
site; Air Force Ball

PAGES 8-9

Of note

PAGE 10

Emergency call tips;
AAFES deploys

PAGE 11

Winning at the 'Wheel';
Personnel Web site

PAGES 12-13

AAFES concessions

PAGE 14, 15, 16

Sports

PAGES 17, 19, 20

Services

PAGE 21

Movies, Command
TV

190
TEAM
KIRTLAND
members
are
deployed
in 14
locations

Force
Protection
Condition
ALPHA

Straight
Talk
853-4636